

# TRIG Newsletter 2012



If you want to find out more about us, please see the contact details on the last page.

## Funding

The Town Council continue to support us with funding towards our running costs and insurances and this year have generously included funding for a new mower, which we hope to purchase very shortly. We hope to get a petrol mower which will help us keep the path edges looking tidy. If there are any ardent mowers out there who don't have enough garden to keep them happy we would be delighted to hear from you! This along with our anonymously donated strimmer, received this Spring, gives us all the kit we need to be independent of outside bodies, to keep the Riverside tidy.

## Shed



When we received our kit form metal shed last Summer little did we know what an epic it would be to get it erected... we had numerous setbacks, not least when the partly completed structure was blown away and ended up suspended above the river on the Environment Agency's scaffolding, thanks to Volker Stevin's assistance with their heavy machinery, it was retrieved. We managed to get it finally finished and firmly bolted to the ground in the market yard, in January.

In the end we totted up 61 hours of man woman and boy assistance to get it in place, so thank you to all our helpers! Just slightly battle scarred, the shed has proved enormously helpful to us and means we can easily access all our tools and equipment.

## Wildlife

We took part in the Big Garden Birdwatch again this January, although we had a low turnout of human observers, (not twitchers as reported in the Tod News!) the birds excelled themselves and we recorded 18 different varieties over the weekend including long tailed tits and grey wagtails. This high count has not been accidental, as Andrea has been feeding the birds, topping up the feeders almost daily throughout the winter, and we continue to keep these topped up over the Summer.



Andrea filling our feeders

We are very upset about the impact on wildlife of the tree felling that Jupiter Investments have carried out during June and July, felling a number of trees and bushes on the land above Tipside, but also encroaching onto Calderdale's land at the bottom too. Was it really necessary to fell our buddleia, butterfly bush which is normally covered in Peacocks, Red Admirals and Tortoiseshells at this time of year? We have spoken to the tree fellers and understand that the landowner is concerned about the safety issues of the larger trees, but we feel that many of the smaller and perfectly healthy trees felled were causing no problems at all and this is just an excuse for land clearance by stealth.

So many people we spoke to on Tipside during this period, were clearly upset by the loss of the trees that we have asked Calderdale to consider protecting the remainder under a tree preservation order, on the grounds of their importance to local amenity and wildlife. At the moment we are not having a lot of joy, but we will continue to keep the pressure on for them to do this, as we are concerned that this is going to be a continuing problem.



Tipside following the tree felling in July, even our meadow flowers were destroyed.

## Community Orchard

We had a good crop of crab apples last Autumn, and Andrea made some very tasty crab apple jelly, which we all sampled. We are hoping for damsons this year, but not expecting much as this year seems to have been poor for fruit. We have identified the person who has been cutting back our medlar trees, and are hoping that a word in the right direction has put a stop to his activities. If you see anyone on Tipside acting suspiciously with a pair of secateurs, please inform us immediately!

## Work parties

We have continued to have our monthly work parties on the first Monday of every month during the Summer, some work parties are held in the Winter but these are weather dependant. Our collaboration with the Community Payback team has been less successful this year due to staff changes at their end, but we hope to still have some input from them in the future. We are pleased that we have almost eradicated Himalayan Balsam from the lower part of the site, and we are starting to tackle it on the other parts of the site. It continues to be an increasing menace throughout Calderdale, shading out bluebells for instance, so if we want to maintain our local biodiversity it needs to be managed.

## Aims for 2013

We have offered our assistance with mowing and strimming to the temporary garden, Pollination Street on the old Rose Street surgery site, during the Summer months. To ensure we can achieve this though we really need some more volunteers for active work.

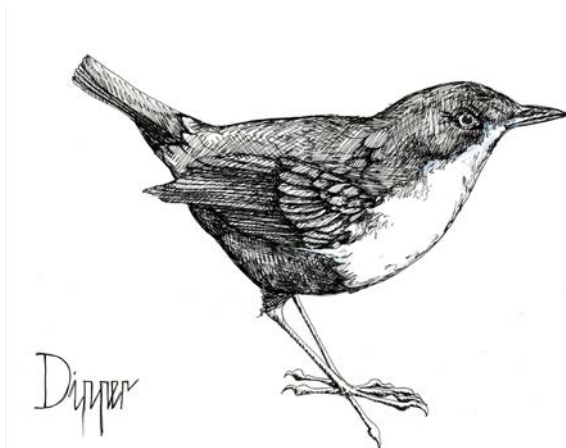
We are still waiting for the Environment Agency's proposals to tidy up the area by the Rose Street bridge to take shape, this will be a great benefit to us in making the entrance to Tipside much tidier. We hope that our long planned interpretation panel will go here. On the back of this we would also like to install a notice board to let people know what is going on and publicise future events.

We can also now be found on the Calderdale hub, which is a new community website, we haven't put much on yet, but we will be adding material all the time. See [www.thecalderhub.co.uk](http://www.thecalderhub.co.uk).

We have suggested to Incredible Edible that they might like to use the land opposite the garages, at the east end of Tipside, which is currently fenced off, although the land itself is probably not very fertile, it would be a great location for raised planters and as a community allotment. We hope to be able to work with them in the future on this.

We are concerned that Jupiter Investments continuing activity on Tipside, and their own long term goals to develop the upper part of the site conflict with our own to protect the lower part of Tipside for people and wildlife, while these two objectives need not be mutually exclusive, Jupiter clearly have little interest in protecting any natural features here. With this in mind our long term aim must be to secure the site and we are exploring ways of possibly purchasing the govt and embankment above Tipside for the community.

We are actively looking for new members and if you would like to get involved with TRIG either actively, joining in with work parties etc or helping with admin please let me (Penny 01706 812480 [penny@pblandscape.co.uk](mailto:penny@pblandscape.co.uk)) or Andrea 01706 817793 [alasp@hotmai.co.uk](mailto:alasp@hotmai.co.uk) we would be very glad to hear from you!



One of Joan Morton's beautiful sketches

### AGM

Our AGM will be on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> **September**, at Todmorden Fire Station, Stansfield Road, 10.30 am, all are welcome.

**For further information contact Penny on 812480 or Andrea on 817793**